

Entry requirements Research master's programme Child Development and Education 2026/27

The Research master's programme is meant for students with a bachelor's degree in pedagogical sciences or in educational sciences, but is also accessible for students with a bachelor's degree in an adjacent study (e.g., psychology, sociology) who want to specialize in research in child development and education. Both Dutch students and students from abroad can apply. All study materials are in English, and the instruction language will also be English. Please note that enrolment into the Research master's programme is restricted to a maximum of 20 - 25 students per year.

The following criteria are set for admission:

- A bachelor's degree or equivalent degree (e.g., pre-master's) in pedagogical sciences, educational sciences, developmental psychology, or a related field (e.g., psychology, sociology).
- Basic knowledge of research methods and applied statistics in social and behavioural science research.
- *Good study results, with grades above average (for example, a grade point average of at least 7.5 on a scale from 1 to 10). Special importance is attached to the study results for research methods and statistics, research practicals and theses. Applicants who can demonstrate academic excellence in other ways, for example with participation in research projects, following additional courses or extracurricular activities, are also encouraged to apply.*
- Good writing skills, as indicated by written academic work (e.g., a paper or thesis).
- Meeting the English language requirements, either by automatic exemption, sufficient English test score or formal waiver granted by the Admissions Board.
- An active interest in research, as indicated by earlier study results, a letter of motivation and the application interview.
- The ambition to become a researcher, as indicated by a letter of motivation and the application interview.

English test requirements

Master's students should be able to speak, read, write and understand English at an advanced academic level. Please check carefully whether you already meet the English language requirements or whether you need to arrange to take an official English language test.

Automatic exemptions

You automatically meet the English language requirements if you possess one of the following diplomas before the start of the programme on 1 September. In this case you do not need to upload an English language score report in your MyInfo application.

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited Dutch academic university;
- English-taught Bachelor's degree from an accredited Dutch university of applied sciences (hbo);
- Dutch-taught Bachelor's degree from an accredited Dutch university of applied sciences (hbo) combined with either a havo diploma with at least a grade of 8 for Engels, or a vwo diploma;
- [International Baccalaureate](#) diploma taught in English;
- Bachelor's degree from a university located in the USA, Canada (with the exception of Québec), the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia or New Zealand. *If you completed a Master's degree in one of these countries but obtained your Bachelor's degree elsewhere, you are not automatically exempt. If you have completed a double degree at Bachelor's level which was only partly completed in one of the above-mentioned countries, please submit a formal exemption request (see below).*
- Bachelor's degree, if fully taught in English and you provide proof of this in one of the following ways:
 - either your official transcript of records states that the entire programme was taught in English;
 - or you must provide a statement from your home institution that the entire programme was taught in English. This declaration needs to contain the university seal and needs to be signed by a registrar from your home institution.

Upload the document proving that you are exempt in your MyInfo application. Personal statements will not be considered. If you are unsure whether you are eligible for an automatic exemption with the degree, transcript or statement that you have, please contact your programme coordinator. Please attach the relevant document to your request.

English language test requirements

Unless your previous education exempts you (see above), you will need to submit a copy of your official English language proficiency certificate as part of your application in MyInfo, or an official confirmation of your test date.

The Graduate School of Child Development and Education only accepts English language tests taken within the past two years, counted from the moment that you submit your application. English language test results that do not meet our requirements will not be considered, and will result in a rejection of your application. All certificates will be verified with the issuing exam centre.

English language tests and minimum scores we accept:

Accepted tests:	Minimum score:
International English Language Testing System (IELTS)	Students are required to have a score of at least 7.0 on the academic module, with a minimum score of 6.5 for the separate components of the test.
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)	Students are required to have a score of at least 100 (internet based test), with the following minimum subscores: • Reading:24 • Listening:22 • Speaking:25 • Writing:24
Cambridge International Examination	Students are required to have a C1 Advanced score of at least 190.

Please note: the result may not be older than two years.

Formal exemption request

If you have good reasons to believe you should be exempted from taking an official English language test but you do not qualify for an automatic exemption (see above), you will need to file a formal exemption request at the Admissions Board. Reasons to file a waiver request can be, for example:

- Being a holder of a diploma from programs with comparable English-language entry requirements;
- Having been raised and/or educated in the USA, Australia, UK, Canada, Ireland or New Zealand, but do not have the country's nationality;
- Having a sufficient test score which is more than two years old and can submit proof that they have actively maintained their English since taking the test

The waiver request will be evaluated by the Admissions Board. Please note that the Admissions Board will not evaluate waiver requests from applicants who have submitted an English test score that does not meet our minimum test score requirements, as stipulated below.

Please note that submitting a waiver request does not mean that the Admissions Board will decide to grant the request and that the committee's decisions are final.